

In re application of: Robert M. Carmichael  
Serial No.: 09/730,116  
Filed: December 5, 2000  
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A2 cont  
second strap is attached to said pouch.

18. (New) The buoyancy compensator of claim 15 wherein said second strap is attached to said ballast member.

19. (New) The buoyancy compensator of claim 16 further including a handle directly or indirectly attached to said pouch.

20. (New) The buoyancy compensator of claim 15 further including a handle directly or indirectly attached to said ballast member.

21. (New) A ballast assembly for use in a releasable ballast system of a dive equipment, the dive equipment having a body member, said ballast assembly comprising:

a ballast member; and

means for retaining the ballast member to the body member of the dive equipment prior to release, said means for retaining including at least one section of a side release buckle.

#### REMARKS

Preliminary to the examination of the above-identified application please add the above additional claims. Applicant is also enclosing a new executed Declaration claiming priority to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/628,836, filed July 31, 2000.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to

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the specification and claims by the current Amendment. The first page of the attached pages is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

If there are any additional charges, including extension of time, please bill our Deposit Account No. 13-1130.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

TO 3600 MAIL ROOM

IN THE SPECIFICATION

1. On page 1, after the title, please insert the following:

--This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/628,836, filed July 31, 2000.--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the following new claims:

14. (New) A buoyancy compensator, comprising:

a body member; and

an active control releasable ballast system attached to said body member, said active control releasable ballast system including a side releasable buckle having a first section and a second section.

15. (New) The buoyancy compensator of claim 14 wherein said active control releasable ballast system further including:

a ballast receiving pocket;

a ballast member disposed within said receiving pocket;

a first strap attached at least approximate to said receiving pocket; and

a second strap attached at least approximate to said receiving pocket;

wherein said first section of said side releasable buckle attached to said first strap, said second section of said side

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releasable buckle attached to said second strap, wherein prior to removable of said ballast member from said receiving pocket said first section and said second section are connected to each other.

16. (New) The buoyancy compensator of claim 15 further including a pouch for holding said ballast member, said pouch disposed within said receiving pocket prior to release of said ballast member and said pouch.

17. (New) The buoyancy compensator of claim 16 wherein said second strap is attached to said pouch.

18. (New) The buoyancy compensator of claim 15 wherein said second strap is attached to said ballast member.

19. (New) The buoyancy compensator of claim 16 further including a handle directly or indirectly attached to said pouch.

20. (New) The buoyancy compensator of claim 15 further including a handle directly or indirectly attached to said ballast member.

21. (New) A ballast assembly for use in a releasable ballast system of a dive equipment, the dive equipment having a body member, said ballast assembly comprising:

a ballast member; and

means for retaining the ballast member to the body member of the dive equipment prior to release, said means for retaining including at least one section of a side release buckle.